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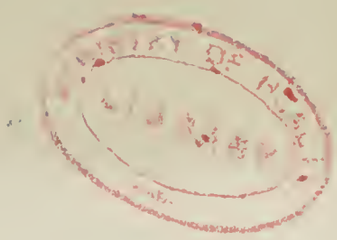

WHITEFIELD URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

INTERIM REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

and

SANITARY INSPECTOR

for the year 1939.

WHITEFIELD URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

HEALTH COMMITTEE
1939.

Councillor D.W.McClune (Chairman)
" J. Bradshaw J.P.
" E. Brown
" H.C.Depledge.
" C. Farrand
" W.E.Faulkner
" R. Hall J.P.
" F. Heaton
" J.W.Jones
" H. Langan
" H. Longworth
" P. Whittle

Clerk to the Council - C.F.Porter, F.C.C.S. F.I.P.A.

Medical Officer of Health - W.P.Ferguson, M.C. M.A.BSc M.D. up to 30th September 1939.
C.H.T.Wade, M.D.BSc. D.P.H. from 1st October, 1939.

Sanitary Inspector and Cleansing Superintendent - B.Hodgson, C.S.I (Lond) M.S.I.A.

Assistant to the Department - F.E.Birtwistle, A.R.I.P.H.H.

Interim Report of the Medical Officer of Health, for the year 1939.

July, 1940.

To the Chairman and Members
of the Urban District Council of Whitefield.

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present an interim report on the health and sanitary conditions of the district. This report is in accordance with the Ministry of Health Circular 2067 of the 19th July and Circular 1961 of the 10th February, 1940. The Minister of Health requests that interim reports only should be made for the year 1939 confined to urgent matters which have affected the public health during the year. All records are being preserved so that after the war, a report can be made dealing more fully with the period from the beginning of 1939 to the end of the last complete year, giving separate statistics for each year in order that the annual records may be continuous and complete.

On the 30th September, Dr. Ferguson, the Medical Officer of Health, resigned,and the Council decided to appoint a Medical Officer who was a whole-time officer of the Public Health Service and not engaged in private practice, and who was also employed by the County Council. This has the advantage of freeing the Medical Officer of Health from the ties of general practice and facilitating the co-operation between the health services administered by the County Council and those adminstered by the District Council.

GENERAL SUMMARY.

There has been no excessive mortality during the year. An outbreak of diphtheria raised the number of cases notified during the year to 32. Fortunately the disease was of a mild character and only one death occurred.

Despite the outbreak of war the work of the department has been carried on without restriction except in connection with housing. The district has not been affected by any movements of population, civil or military, and there is no outstanding matter worthy of comment.

General Provision of Health Services for the Area.

There has been no change in these services during the year. Details are outlined in previous reports. In connection with nursing facilities in the home, provision is made privately by means of the Mellor Sick Nursing Fund. This is a trust fund and the income is usually inadequate for the nursing requirements of the district.

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

There has been no important change and a summary is given in the Sanitary Inspector's Report.

Housing.

Eighty-two houses were completed by the Council. The Fountain Street, Holland Street and Top o'th Fields Clearance Area was completed and the residents were re-housed on the Victoria Estate. By the operation of Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936, five houses were demolished and five were reconditioned, The tenants of the demolished houses were re-housed on the Victoria Estate.

Inspections were carried out in 36 instances and in 21 of these reconditioning was commenced towards the end of the year. A representation in respect of a further 15 houses situated in Hillock would have been made under Section 154 of the Housing Act, 1936, but this was withheld because of the outbreak of hostilities.

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

The inspection and supervision of food has been carried out as usual and has not been interrupted by the war. There has been no outbreak of food poisoning of any kind. The additional powers granted by the Lancashire Rivers Board & General Powers Act, 1938, have been utilised. This Act provides for the licensing of vehicles used for the sale of food, the supervision and licensing of premises used by hawkers for the storage of food and of premises used for the manufacture of ice cream, sausages, potted meats and fish.

Prevalence of, and Control over, Infectious and other diseases.

The provisions for the control of infectious diseases are substantially the same as in previous years. In order to conserve the number of hospital beds, scarlet fever cases have been isolated at home whenever circumstances permitted. An outbreak of diphtheria raised the number of cases notified during the year to 32. Fortunately the disease was of a mild character and only one death occurred. Preliminary arrangements have been made for the introduction of a diphtheria immunisation scheme.

Table I

Disease	Total Cases Notified	Cases admitted to hospital.
Smallpox	-	-
Scarlet Fever	22	16
Diphtheria	32	32
Enteric Fever	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-
Pneumonia	11	-
Other diseases notified	-	-

Table II

Tuberculosis - New cases.

Age Periods Years.	New cases Respiratory M.	Respiratory F.	Non-Respiratory M.	Non-Respiratory F.
0				
1			1	
5				
10				
15	1			1
20	1			1
25	1	1	1	2
35				
45	3	1	1	2
55		1		
65 and upwards				
Totals	6	3	3	6

C.H.T.WADE.

Medical Officer of Health.

[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [

Sanitary Circumstances

of the

Urban District of Whitefield.

Town Hall,
Whitefield.
July, 1940.

To the Chairman and Members of the Urban District of Whitefield.

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present for your consideration my report on the Sanitary Conditions of the district for the year ending December 31st, 1939 and the Cleansing Department for the year ending March 31st, 1940.

Considerable activity was shown in all branches of the work until the commencement of the war, when certain sections such as, housing, had to be curtailed.

May I express to the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee, the Medical Officer of Health, Clerk to the Council, Surveyor, and Staff in general, my appreciation of the valued assistance and co-operation shown to me during the year.

I am, Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

B. HODGSON,

Sanitary Inspector and Cleansing Superintendant.

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Summary of Inspections.

Complaints investigated	74
Bakehouses	31
Dairies, Cowsheds & Milkshops	131
Slaughter-houses, Foodshops and Street Vendors.	476
L.C.C. General Powers Act	26
Billets	50
Factories	23
Factories re Smoke	9
Smoke Observations	14
Dwelling Houses-Public Health & Housing Acts	138
" " -Council Houses	31
" " -Infectious Diseases	80
" " -Revisits	275
Drains	118
Stables & Piggeries	7
Builders & Owners interviewed	38
Rats & Mice Act	24
Works in Progress	221
Cleansing Visits	105
Miscellaneous Visits	439
Shops Acts	162
Fried Fish Shops	11
Farmers & Dairymen Interviewed	21
Total Number of Inspections	2504

Informal Notices served	220
Statutory Notices	28

Milk

The following samples were taken and submitted for examination during the year.

Bacteriological Examination

24 samples were submitted, 6 of which on examination were found not to conform to the recognised standard.

Biological Examination

23 samples were submitted, 4 of which proved positive and were dealt with by the appropriate authority.

Designated Milk

9 samples of milk were taken from farms producing Accredited Milk, 1 of which did not come up to the recognised standard.

Food & Drugs Act

59 samples were taken by the County Police under the above Act and upon analysis all were found to be genuine.

Meat Regulations

The following table gives details of animals slaughtered during the year:-

Beasts	Sheep	Pigs	Calves
115	4497	34	3

The amount of unsound meat surrendered was 669-lbs, 207 of which was tubercular.

Sanitary Accommodations

1 Privy Closet was converted to a fresh water closet and one waste water closet to a fresh water closet whilst one ashpit was abolished and dustbing provided.

The following table gives details of sanitary accommodation in the district on December 31st, 1939.

Fresh Water Closets	3986	Waste Water Closets	129
Pail Closets	40	Dry Ashpits	3
Dust Bins	4205	Privy Closets	53
	Privy Middens	30	

Atmospheric Pollution

14 Observations of works chimneys were taken during the year and in no case was the emissions of such character as to necessitate action being taken.

Lancashire County Council & Rivers Board & General Powers Act

During the year the following licences were issued:-

Section 115	21
Section 116	39

Petrol Licences

16 Licences were issued during 1939

Cleansing

The following table gives details of work done for the year ending March 31st, 1940.

Bins emptied	Pails emptied	Ashpits & Privies emp.	Loads W.	Loads D.
188136	1702	113	31	1301

Factories Act, 1937

Six licences were issued in accordance with the provisions of Section 34 of the above Act, which deals with the means of escape in case of fire.

Bakehouses

There are 14 bakehouses on the register, all of which have been frequently inspected and satisfactorily maintained.

Shops Acts, 1934

11 Exemption Certificates were granted in relation to Sanitary Accommodation in accordance with the provisions of Section 10 of the above Act.